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# COLONEL WAS IN RUSS PAY FOR 15 YEARS Is 'Co-operating' with Probers

(By United Press International)

"My God!" exploded the man in the British defense ministry. "Not Wennerstrom!"

That was last June 20, the day Sweden announced the arrest of Col. Stig E. C. Wennerstrom, recent head of the air force section of the Swedish defense command, and trusted aid of the country's defense minister, Sven Andersson. Wennerstrom had admitted being a paid spy for the Russians for 15 years.

No one was more shocked than the Swedes themselves. But the repercussions went much farther—to NATO headquarters in Paris, the Pentagon in Washington, the defense ministry in London.

## What Did He Know?

The big question was how much had Wennerstrom told? How much could he have known about NATO plans and weapons?

Sweden, Europe's famous "neutral" thru two world wars,



Col. Stig Wennerstrom

was not a NATO member. But as a western nation, a friend if not an ally of the North Atlantic powers, it had long had access to some of the latest in western weaponry, almost certainly had mapped its own defenses in line with what it knew of allied planning.

Sweden is still pumping the blood, handsome 56-year-old colonel to learn every detail of what he passed on to the Russians and he is said to be co-operating fully. Sweden's own future depends as much as anyone's on the answers he gives.

Officially, neither Sweden, nor NATO nor any of the western countries involved has com-

mented on the specifics of Wennerstrom's disclosures to the Kremlin.

On the official level, there has been a tendency to play down the likelihood of any really serious damage to NATO's defenses. Unofficially, however, reporters "testing the temperature" in the concerned capitals find many clues that the worry goes deep.

Swedes also are convinced that the colonel gave the Russians details on a wide variety of top-secret Swedish and NATO weapons, including data on the latest Swedish-built jet fighters and Bofors guns and rockets.

In Washington, United States officials reexamining security precautions in the light of the Wennerstrom case and other recent lapses at first expressed alarm that the Swedish colonel may have revealed data on the important Hawk anti-aircraft missile to the Russians.

An Excellent Weapon  
The Hawk missile, designed to kill low-flying aircraft which can avoid ground-to-air missiles. It is a technically excellent weapon which the Soviets were not able to copy until recently — after the United States negotiated a treaty with Sweden in mid-1957.

Last Friday, Defense Robert McNamara said he is satisfied that Wennerstrom's disclosures compromise no of the United States' weapons systems. He also said there was no evidence of espionage by States personnel or sources.

By coincidence or otherwise, however, the Soviets now have a missile, known as "Sam-3", which nearly duplicates Hawk. They might have designed it without the aid of espionage but data on Hawk would have been a major coup.

Between 1952 and 1957, the affable Swedish colonel served as an air attache in Washington and was a favorite in diplomatic and military circles because of his impeccable culture and charm. He departed Washington in mid 1957 in an aura of special sympathy because his 18-year-old blonde daughter had run away for a time, without the benefit of a congressional page boy.

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